



March 3, 2022

To our siblings in Christ Jesus at Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Russian Catholic Church, All Saints of Russia Orthodox Church,

Grace and peace be with you.

As is the tradition the enclosed icon, "The Madonna of the Tear," was drawn in prayer and fasting. The posture of the mother and child categorize it as a Madonna of Lovingkindness, capturing their tender embrace, cheek to cheek, sharing breath. The icon, however, departs from the tradition in that the mother figure has a single tear rolling down her cheek; she, like every mother, wishes for her child all the love and joy that life has to give... and knows the inevitable pains and hardships that are a part of every life. She cannot shield the child from them; she can only make her little one know that they will never have to go through them alone.

Not only is the Theotokos holding the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, she is holding you. We, too, are holding them and you. Know that you are not alone and that we are here to support you in any way we can. If you are aware of any specific needs, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would also be happy to share said needs with the Colorado Council of Churches at your request.

Blessings,

Fr. Michael J. Nicosia

Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement

on behalf of Bishop Kae Madden and the communities of
the Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion

rockymountainecc@gmail.com ✘ 720-218-1081 ✘ 2173 S. Ouray Street, Aurora CO 80013



Madonna of the Tear

by Fr. Michael J. Nicosia, ECC